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ART AND PROGRESS

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PROGRESS IN THE WEST

WIDENING interest in art and a desire to uphold high standards are manifested by the numerous inquiries which are being made concerning the American Federation of Arts' traveling exhibitions. These inquiries come from all parts of the country but very largely from the middle west. At a recent meeting of the Exhibition Committee of the Federation letters were presented from correspondents in New Orleans, St. Joseph, Terre Haute, Peoria, Carthage, Omaha, Lawrence, Nashville, Columbus, Fort Worth, Fairmont, Raleigh and other places. In most instances the desire is for exhibitions of American paintings and for the best. The fund is not always sufficient to cover the cost of such an exhibition but in more than one case

this deficiency has been met within a comparatively short space of time, and whether the means are available or not the inclination is there. A few years ago many of these places would have been satisfied with reproductions or the average commercial collection, and would, in all likelihood, have expressed a preference for foreign work. It has been prophesied by one who has carefully noted conditions that within five years a great demand will be made in the middle west for American paintings, that an era of extraordinary prosperity is opening for American painters, an era when the production will scarcely equal the demand. This may seem like short-range prophecy, a wild hazard, but the signs of the time do not contradict such belief. During the past year one painter alone sold sixteen pictures in the middle west and many other sales have been made both to private collectors and public institutions. American paintings are being collected. There is a great onward movement and it is only necessary that the artists and those interested in art shall see that it is rightly directed.

WILLIAM E. CURTIS

WILLIAM E. CURTIS, who died suddenly in Philadelphia on October 5th, was best known as a journalist—a special newspaper correspondent of wide and enviable reputation. He was also, however, a regent of the National Academy of Art and one of the organizers of the American Federation of Arts. Despite the fact that his time was extremely occupied with his regular business which was very exacting, he attended many preliminary meetings held for the purpose of discussing the establishment of a national art society, and, finally, suggesting a feasible manner of procedure, took entire charge, himself, of the program for the convention which was held in Washington in May, 1910, at which the American Federation of Arts was formed. Having traveled extensively throughout the United States, as well as foreign countries, he realized, as did few, the need of concerted effort to secure civic better-